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Mr Brennan - M
Mr Stephens
Mr Fell
Mr Chesterton - M
Mr Carvill
Mr Merifield
Mr Reeve
Mr Bickham - M
Mr S Hewitt

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Mr Lyon - M

SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH THE US CONSUL-GENERAL

Mr Sam Bartlett, US Consul-General in Belfast, paid a courtesy call on the Secretary of State at Stormont Castle on Monday 8 July. Mr S Hewitt and I were present.

Discrimination in Employment

2. Mr Bartlett said that alleged discrimination against Catholics by NI employers would be the dominant issue in Irish-American politics for the next 6 months. The MacBride principles, as commonly presented, ^{were} contrary to US government policy (which supported the expansion of employment opportunities in Northern Ireland); but the State Department had not been as assertive as he would have wished in pointing this out. Comptroller Goldin - whom Mr Bartlett described as a consummate "political opportunist" - had taken the line that the MacBride principles should not imply the introduction of quotas or disinvestment and that if that was how they were being interpreted they should be clarified. Mr Bartlett handed the Secretary of State the text of a recent New York Times editorial (copy attached), which he thought was helpful.

3. The Secretary of State agreed that the NYT editorial was helpful. He did not doubt the importance that some US politicians attached to the discrimination issue, and he had this consideration in mind when deciding to set up the official working group, announced to Parliament last week. The Secretary of State said that he was reconsidering tactics for combatting the effects of the disinvestment campaign; he expressed some doubt as to whether we had adopted the right stance at the outset.

4. Mr Bartlett referred to the FEA report on Shorts. He warned that Shorts was still at risk of being on the receiving end of a backlash from the US, led by such figures as

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Judge Clark and Peter Daley. A number of politicians had gone out on a limb to help the company win the USAF contracts: now that the order had been won, Shorts were seen as reverting to their old ways, and their supporters in Congress could easily become opponents. Sir Philip Foreman seemed insensitive to the political dimension.

5. The Secretary of State said that Sir Philip Foreman was primarily a businessman, not keen on assessing the political implications of commercial decisions. The Secretary of State and Dr Boyson had repeatedly pointed out to him that the two could not be divorced. But the West Belfast project was now going ahead.

Inward visits

6. The Secretary of State asked if HMG could do more in facilitating visits to Northern Ireland by US opinion-formers. He would ask the British Embassy in Washington to stimulate further visits (and I would be grateful if you would advise on how to take this forward); in parallel, could not the US Embassy in London suggest to US politicians visiting the UK that they include a day in Northern Ireland in their itineraries?

7. Mr Bartlett said he would follow this point up with the Embassy. He warned that Mr Biaggi would be bringing over to Northern Ireland a hostile group of Congressmen in the autumn. But the visits by Senators Hatch and DeConcini had been useful.

Anglo-Irish discussions

8. The Secretary of State briefed Mr Bartlett on the current state of the discussions with Dublin. The Secretary of State said that there were very high risks in obtaining an agreement: the present difficulties over parades was a symptom of unionist unease about the Anglo-Irish talks. Whatever the outcome - agreement, or failure to agree - it would be important that HMG should take steps to ensure its position was understood in the US.

9. Mr Bartlett said that Congress would probably take their lead from Dublin rather than London. The Irish-American element would create problems for the UK, if nothing positive emerged from the discussions.

Martin Galvin

10. Mr Bartlett said he believed Galvin was leaving the Republic that day (8 July), bound for home. Galvin was a New York City employee, and Mr Bartlett thought it unlikely that Mayor Koch would countenance giving Galvin additional leave to permit longer visits to this side of the Atlantic. The US Government were trying to find a

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discreet way of advising this summer's Noraid tour to stay out of Northern Ireland.

RPC

R P CLEASBY
Private Secretary

9 July 1985

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AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
3 JUL 1985
RECEIVED, NORTHERN IRELAND.

V.C.
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FILE
ACTION

BELFAST FOR SBARTLETT, DUBLIN FOR JBOYLE, LONDON FOR PREAMS

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, US, UK, SHUM
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

FYI, FOLLOWING IS AN EDITORIAL WHICH APPEARED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES ON JULY 5, 1985:

BEGIN TEXT: UNFAIR TO ULSTER

A LOFTY BUT MISGUIDED PROPOSITION FOR OPPOSING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CATHOLICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND HAS REARED ITS HEAD IN CONGRESS, THREE STATE LEGISLATURES AND THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL. BASED ON WHAT ARE CALLED THE +MAC BRIDE PRINCIPLES,+ THE PROPOSAL SEEKS TO IMPOSE UNITED STATES LAW ON ALL HIRING BY THE 24 AMERICAN COMPANIES IN THAT TORMENTED PROVINCE. THE MEASURE CAN ONLY HURT AN ECONOMY ALREADY CRIPPLED BY STRIFE AND RECESSION.

THE CODE OF PRINCIPLES IS NAMED FOR THE CO-AUTHOR, SEAN MAC BRIDE, A FOUNDER OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. IT IS PATTERNED AFTER THE SULLIVAN PRINCIPLES, WHICH AMERICAN COMPANIES VOLUNTARILY SIGN TO DEFINE THEIR OPERATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA. BUT THERE IS NO EASY PARALLEL BETWEEN COMBATTING APARTHEID AND PROMOTING EQUALITY IN ULSTER. DISCRIMINATION IS THE LAW OF SOUTH AFRICA= IT IS PROHIBITED

IN NORTHERN IRELAND. INDEED, THE EMPLOYMENT QUOTAS PROPOUNDED IN THE MAC BRIDE PRINCIPLES MAY VIOLATE THE LOCAL BRITISH ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS.

IS THIS ANYTHING MORE THAN AN EXHORTATION TO FAIRNESS? IS IT THE START OF A DISINVESTMENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST COMPANIES JUDGED IN VIOLATION? OR IS IT A DISGUISED EFFORT TO TAKE SIDES IN ULSTER'S TORMENT?

THE PRINCIPAL SPONSOR IS THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS, A WASHINGTON LOBBY INTENT ON GETTING AMERICANS TO PRESSURE BRITAIN TO WITHDRAW FROM NORTHERN IRELAND. ITS BILL-- THE NORTHERN IRELAND FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES ACT--WENT NOWHERE IN THE LAST CONGRESS. A NEW VERSION WILL BE SUBMITTED SOON BY REPRESENTATIVE HAMILTON FISH OF NEW YORK.

A SIMILAR BILL WAS DEFEATED IN THE CONNECTICUT LEGISLATURE THIS YEAR. ANOTHER DIED LAST WEEKEND IN THE NEW YORK SENATE AFTER THE ASSEMBLY APPROVED IT TOGETHER WITH THE SULLIVAN BILL. ANOTHER IS PENDING IN MASSACHUSETTS. IN NEW YORK CITY, A BILL FROM COUNCILMAN SAL ALBINESE WOULD PROHIBIT PENSION FUND INVESTMENTS IN COMPANIES THAT DON'T SIGN THE MAC BRIDE FORMULA. MAYOR KOCH SAYS THIS EXCEEDS THE COUNCIL'S POWER. COMPTROLLER HARRISON GOLDIN, JUST BACK FROM NORTHERN IRELAND, IS PRESSING PENSION FUNDS TO ACT ON THEIR OWN.

WHATEVER THE OBJECTIVE, THE DANGER IS THAT SUCH EXERTIONS COULD MAKE MATTERS WORSE. WITH AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 21 PERCENT, NORTHERN IRELAND DESPERATELY NEEDS MORE INVESTMENT, NOT LESS. ADDING AN AMERICAN ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW TO BRITAIN'S IS UNNECESSARY AND WOULD SURELY DETER THE FEW NEW INVESTORS. THESE INTERVENTIONS FROM AFAR WOULD ONLY ADD TO ULSTER'S AGONY. END TEXT.

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